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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/761,002	01/20/2004	Wen-Song Tseng	TS2002-1031(N1085-90163)	1634
8933	7590	05/30/2006	EXAMINER	
DUANE MORRIS, LLP IP DEPARTMENT 30 SOUTH 17TH STREET PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-4196			TOLEDO, FERNANDO L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2823	

DATE MAILED: 05/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/761,002

Applicant(s)

TSENG ET AL.

Examiner

Fernando L. Toledo

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 10-18 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 19-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1 – 9 and 19 – 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshioka et al (US Patent Application Publication US 2002/0027080 A1).

3. In re claims 1 and 19, Yoshioka, in the US Patent Application Publication US 2002/0027080 A1; figures 1 – 30 and related text, discloses providing a wet processing tank wherein the wafer is to be placed within the wet processing tank (Figure 1); providing a sensor within said wet processing tank wherein said sensor continuously counts bubbles formed within the wet processing tank in a time interval (Figure 1); and querying said sensor wherein if a bubble count within said time interval exceeds a trigger point, then an alarm is given and said wafer is not placed into said wet processing tank (§ 0079).

4. In re claims 2 and 20, Yoshioka discloses further comprising turning on the sensor when chemical circulation occurs within the wet processing tank (§ 0079).

5. In re claims 3 and 21, Yoshioka discloses further including checking if the sensor emits an “OFF” signal wherein if said “OFF” signal is emitted for more than a threshold time period, then the alarm is given and the wafer is not placed into the wet processing tank (§ 0079).

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6. In re claims 4 and 22, Yoshioka discloses wherein the wet processing includes wet stripping, wet etching, or rinsing (Abstract).
7. In re claims 5 and 23, Yoshioka discloses wherein the bubbles are caused by boiling of liquid within said wet processing tank (§ 0078).
8. In re claims 6 and 24, Yoshioka discloses wherein the bubbles are caused by air being sucked into a circulation loop and thus into said wet processing tank (§ 0079).
9. In re claims 7 and 19, Yoshioka discloses further including providing an outer tank surrounding said wet processing tank wherein said chemical circulation includes a chemical liquid circulating out of the outer tank, through a pump, and into the processing tank (Figure 1).
10. In re claims 8, 19 and 25, Yoshioka discloses wherein the chemical liquid further travels through a heater, a filter and several air valves (Figure 1).
11. In re claims 9 and 19, Yoshioka discloses wherein the chemical liquid travels through said sensor prior to traveling through said pump (Figure 1).

Response to Arguments

12. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 – 9 and 19 – 25 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

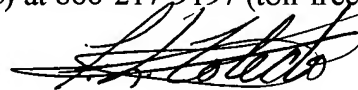
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fernando L. Toledo whose telephone number is 571-272-1867. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 12pm-7:30pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Smith can be reached on 571-272-1907. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Fernando L. Toledo
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2823

flt
25 May 2006